## After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

V.—ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN TO CERTAIN SELECT COMMITTEES ON BILLS.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I have to announce that I nominate Mr. W. M. Browning as Chairman for the two Select Committees regarding the Madras Gaming (Amendment) Bill and the Madras City Police (Amendment) Bill.

" I nominate Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920."

IV—BILLS—*cont.*

(1) THE TIRUMALAI-TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS BILL—*cont.*

Discussion was then resumed on the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Bill.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Mr. President, Sir, I welcome the introduction of a Bill, the object of which is to ensure efficient management and popular control of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams. In order to justify an object of that sort and the consequent introduction of a Bill to ensure the accomplishment of that object, it does not seem to be necessary for anybody to allege acts of mismanagement and much less to prove them against the present Vicharanakartha. It is enough, Sir, if the public opinion is in favour of preparedness to take the management of a big religious institution like the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams and make such provisions to effectuate that object. Therefore the fact that a suit is pending in a court of law for framing a scheme or for making amendments in the existing Scheme which governs the management of that institution need not act as an impediment for the legislature to go on with this Bill. Any day I am of opinion that control of a popular body of any big institution is much more dependable and much less susceptible to corruptions and autocracy than the management of such institution by a single individual. Probably the individual trustees themselves of temples, hereditary or nominated, might sometimes feel the necessity of assistance of the members of the public who are interested in that institution.

" Though as many as seven or eight hon. Members of this Council have given notice of Bills affecting the proper management of these devasthanams, it is practically one Bill that we have got to deal with. Therefore this House is denied the enlightenment that it would have derived had the Bills been the result of individual thinking of each of the hon. Members who have given notice of this Bill. Presumably all the Bills are drafted by a single author and it is whispered, Sir, that the Bill is the result of considerable thinking in the Hindu Religious Endowments Board. If my presumption is correct, it would have been indeed a very convenient matter for this Council, had that Bill been sponsored by the Government. The Government had been anxious to make improvements in the management of this temple for a considerably long time. When the Hindu Religious Endowments Act was before the legislature, it was thought that the Act aimed particularly at this devasthanam. But owing to some cause or another it was not possible